

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Doris Hodge, the granddaughter of former slaves, overcame many obstacles and removed barriers for others, was an active Lakota community member, as well as an important contributor to the quality of life in Rapid City and the state of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Doris was a warrior for literacy, board member, and tutor for the South Dakota Literacy Council of the Black Hills, serving as president from 1996 to 1997, teaching others to read, helping them succeed by earning their GED, or learn English as a second language; and after having taught in the Douglas School System for 27 years until her retirement, she extended her community by tutoring, oftentimes for free, and teaching the GED and English at Oglala Lakota College, giving true meaning to the concept of "no child (person) left behind"; and,

Whereas, Doris had a profound and undeniable impact on those she met by encouraging them when they were down, extending the hand of friendship when they needed a lift, buying food for the homeless and indigent, giving rides to travelers who had no way to the Pine Ridge or Rosebud Reservations; and,

Whereas, Doris was a defender of civil rights, human equality, providing a voice for the silent, strength for the fearful, and opportunity for the people she loved; and,

Whereas, Doris loved children, her door was always open to any child or parent in need of advice or mentoring, fought hard to protect people of color from racist practices, and was vocal about injustice; and,

Whereas, Doris, by her inspiration and generosity to her peers, has given the youth of today a far richer life by her unselfish acts; and,

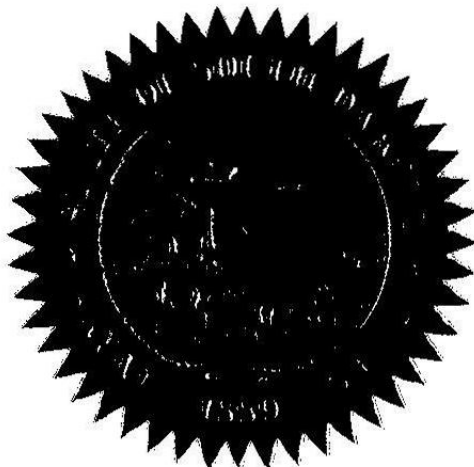
Whereas, Doris was a member of Restorative Justice, Rapid City NAACP, Black Hills Girl Scouts Council, SD Peace and Justice, co-founder and "co-mama" of the He Sapa Writers Club, the first member of SANI-T (Society for the Advancement of Native Interests—Today), a founding mother of Women's Connection, serving as Chairwomen of the Board, and also a member and board member of the Black Hills Community Theater; and,

Whereas, Doris left this earth 1 year ago after 78 years of tireless and triumphant efforts, overcoming many barriers, not only for herself and her children, but her entire neighborhood, which was the world:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 9-15, 2004, as

DORIS HODGE WEEK

in South Dakota, to celebrate and commemorate the life of one woman who made a difference to her community through unselfish acts, dedicated persistence, and advocating for the elimination of racism and bigotry in this community and this world.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State